



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

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CONTACT: Tim Sievers
(517) 373-1619

Chair of Senate Finance Committee responds to Granholm press conference on SBT

LANSING – On April 20, House and Senate Tax Policy and Finance committees began hearings on the governor's tax plan, taking testimony from representatives of the business community including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Spartan Stores and the National Federation of Independent Businesses, who spoke on behalf of employers and workers.

It came as a surprise that following the first hearing, Gov. Granholm immediately called a press conference and admonished the business groups that testified by saying there was an effort to 'deliberately mislead businesses on her Single Business Tax plan.'

The governor stated that there was 'deliberate misinformation' being given to 'obstruct a very good piece of public policy,' and asserted that this reflects a 'partisan agenda,' and it would be a travesty to follow such.

"The governor's use of harsh words and rhetoric is unfortunate and regrettable," said Cassis, R- Novi. "Where do these assumptions come from? How appropriate is it to run down employers and workers, especially when these groups offered facts and figures to substantiate their concerns?"

"I want to commend my leader, Sen. Sikkema, in announcing that we will move judiciously and cautiously. We, as legislators, have a duty to sift through the governor's plan and give it full, thorough hearings.

"Careful study of the plan's merits and the reactions of interested parties are essential and are at the heart of our governmental process. To short-circuit this process would call into question the function of the legislative body.

"Bipartisan House and Senate committees intend to hold more hearings in Lansing and around the state, which will have non-scripted audiences. All will be invited to the table, not just a selected few handpicked by Treasury to provide input.

"As chair of Senate Finance, I have not given an opinion on the governor's plan intentionally. Rather, I prefer to listen, hear and examine all impacts and then work together to forge a plan that will foster a robust economy – growing jobs, attracting investment, and making Michigan's economy more competitive."

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